

NEWS from The Savannah River Site



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For Immediate Release

WSRC AND TRI-COUNTY WORKFORCE READINESS PARTNERSHIP WINS NATIONAL AWARD

AIKEN, S.C., October 29 – The Westinghouse Savannah River Company Team in partnership with the Tri-County Workforce Readiness Partnership, Allendale, SC, has received national recognition for the WSRC School-To-Work Internship Program. At a Nashville, TN awards ceremony WSRC and the Tri-County Workforce Readiness Partnership were awarded the 2003 Exemplary Worksite Learning Award.

The WSRC School-to-Work Internship Program, which started in 1995 for the Tri-County Workforce Readiness Partnership's educational partners, links internships and employment opportunities to school curricula and provides students with marketable skills to make a successful transition from the school environment to the workplace. Since 1995, 203 students have participated in, or are currently participating in the program.

Tri-County Area educational institutions participating in WSRC's School-to-Work Internship Program are Allendale-Fairfax High School, Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School, Barnwell High School, Blackville-Hilda High School, Denmark-Olar High School, Williston-Elko High School, Denmark Technical College and USC Salkahatchie.

Dr. Gene Schwarting, Director, Tri-County Workforce Readiness Partnership says, "We are thrilled at the success of the School-To-Work Program and our partnership with WSRC. Our goal is to build on the success of the program and provide more opportunities for Tri-County Area residents, as well as others who could benefit from WSRC's education programs."

(more)

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The Exemplary Worksite Learning Award, a national award sponsored by The Caterpillar Inc., was established in 1994 by The Center For Occupational Research and Development and the National Tech Prep Network. The award recognizes those that have successfully integrated “meaningful worksite learning experiences.”

Submissions were judged in the following areas: program overview; professional development and experiences; business involvement and results. The WSRC School-To-Work Program was recognized as being “exceptional in all these areas and a great model for others to follow,” according to the National Tech Prep Network.

The School-To-Work Program contributes to the Tech Prep effort by giving students an opportunity to connect what they were learning in the classroom with “real world” applications, while exposing them to state-of-the-art equipment and highly trained and experienced workplace mentors.

Statistics show that ninety-five percent of the students completing work-based learning at WSRC continue their studies at technical schools and colleges.

“This is a great honor for our employees and company to be nationally recognized as a partner in the education community,” says WSRC President Bob Pedde. “We are excited about the opportunities that we are able to offer to students in the Tri-County and Central Savannah River Area, and look forward to providing more work-based learning experiences and educational opportunities.”

WSRC provides a variety of education outreach programs to enhance interest in science, mathematics, engineering and technology and to support improvements in education in the region.

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